



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

CERTIFIED

Ms. Karen Blundell
BASF Corporation
26 Davis drive
Post Office Box 13526
Research Triangle Park, NC 277709-3528

Dear Ms. Blundell:

I am pleased to announce the initiation of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) reregistration eligibility review and tolerance reassessment for the pesticide sodium aciflourfen, for which you hold a technical product registration. The enclosed human health and ecological risk assessments summarize the existing database and describes the risks associated with the use of sodium aciflourfen. Within the next 30 days, please identify and comment on any errors in these documents. In addition, we would like you to review the risk assessment documents for confidential business information (CBI), and inform the Agency of any newly completed, pending, or planned studies involving sodium aciflourfen.

This advance opportunity to review EPA's pesticide risk assessment(s) for errors is an integral part of a wider effort to involve the public in implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. As described in section VIII of the *Federal Register* Notice published on March 15, 2000 (65 FR 14200), the EPA is following an interim public participation process during fiscal year 2000 for the reregistration of sodium acifluorfen.

Please submit your error correction comments within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Upon receipt, we will evaluate your comments and prepare a written response, and will revise the risk assessments, as necessary. Errors include mathematical, computational, typographic, or other similar errors. At this stage, we will respond only to errors that do not pertain to matters of policy, interpretation, or applicability of data. On or about August 12, 2000, EPA will release to the public the risk assessments, your comments, and the Agency's review and discussion of your comments. These documents will be placed in a Public Docket and posted on EPA's Internet site. The EPA will announce the availability of these documents via a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, and through an electronic listserver message.

After reviewing the EPA's risk assessments, please inform us in writing of any claims of CBI contained in these assessments. If we do not receive notification in writing of any such claims within 30 days, we will assume that the documents are free of CBI. Also, please inform us of any pertinent, on-going or planned studies, or other sources of information on sodium aciflourfen, and your timetable for completing and submitting such data and information to the

Agency. This will enable EPA to plan better for refining its risk assessments and completing reregistration and tolerance reassessment.

Please send your response, including any claims of CBI and other information, in both printed and electronic form to Christina Scheltema, the Chemical Review Manager for sodium aciflourfen. If you have any questions, please contact her at (703) 308-2201.

Sincerely,

Betty Shackleford, Chief
Reregistration Branch 3
Special Review and
Reregistration Division

Enclosures